

# The Farmington Observer

## Suburban Life

Loraine McEllish editor/477-5450

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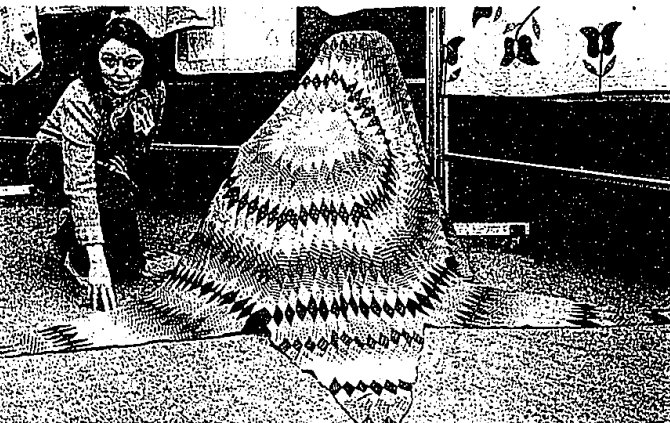
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Embroiderers' Guild member Claudia Prosek came to the meeting wearing a jacket made of Shesko quilting. The jacket was made in the ancient and traditional manner of white thread quilted on indigo blue material.



Chapter president Betty Cowell tells how scraps of cotton and some simple embroidery stitches can be put together for a crazy quilt design to be used as a decoration on a sweat shirt.



Kathy Johnston (above) examines an 1875 period quilt top called 'The Texas Star'. Johnston will be one of the workshop leaders when the chapter learns about wastecanvases at next month's meeting. Nancy Hays (at left) goes through a pile of quilt blocks, each a sample of different quilting patterns and stitches for the needleworker.



Karen Roth is vice president of the needlecrafters who helped set up the display of quilts that filled the group's large meeting room in Faith Covenant Church for the January meeting. She is identified

as a member by her name tag, which each member makes for herself in the needlework of her choice.

## Embroiderers Guild Needlecrafters gather for show and tell

By Loraine McEllish  
staff writer

When local needleworkers gathered for their meeting this month in Faith Covenant Church every bit of space in the spacious room was taken up with quilts, or quilt blocks, quilting that had been used to decorate a piece of clothing, quilt patterns or books on quilting. The gamut ran from the family heirloom or the collector's 100-year-old find to the contemporary. And from the elegant applique, the best one could lay out in the guest room, to the crazy patchwork put together by the woman who made it to keep her family warm.

"This is show and tell time," said Karen Roth, vice president of Farmington Hills Chapter of Embroiders Guild of America. "Today the subject is quilting so everybody brings whatever they've done, what they're working on, whatever they have in their home that they can share with the rest of us."

Speaker for the day was Diane Little, a Livonia resident who has worked as an instructor of quilting and weaving in Greenfield Village for 10 years. She brought some of the out-of-the-ordinary

quilts from her own collection to add to the program's display.

Little narrated a slide show aimed at stimulating the quilter's imagination, showed examples of good and not-so-good designs, colors that did and didn't work, price winners in the traditional and do-it-yourself categories, and wound up evoking questions and discussion that continued through a pot luck lunch.

NEXT MONTH the subject is wastecanvases, a workshop to be taught by members Davis Harrington and Kathy Johnston. Members will be charged \$1 for materials and they will brown bag it for the meeting that extends from 10 a.m. to "whenever they want to leave, generally about 2:30 or so," said Betty Cowell, who has just started her one-year term as president.

"In March the subject is smoking, but the format remains pretty much the same, a networking of ideas, bringing in experts and some of those are in our group, letting one another know what shows and seminars are going on in the area, sharing our common love of needle crafts," Cowell said. "Some members bring their work to work on at the meetings. Some have unusual expertise or unusual stories to tell about a craft's history. Some introduce us to new kinds of needlework."

An extension to that is the chapter's own floating library, set up at every meeting. Books in the library are bought with funds from a monthly raffle. The prize might be a needlecraft kit, a piece of finished needlework, a gift certificate from a needlecraft shop, "but at any rate a painless, and even fun way, to collect extra funds," said NaDean Sellman, who is membership chair.

In addition to networking with one another the members recently voted to become a member of MAPS (Metro Area Programs), which keeps them in touch with all needleworking groups in southeast Michigan.

IN SPITE OF its name, membership in the Farmington Hills Chapter is not restricted to those who live here. Cowell said the chapter members had a bit of trouble convincing the national office to establish another group when there are chapters in several nearby communities, but had no trouble getting together a sizable number who wanted to meet in this city.

"We're autonomous. We select our own programs and our own format, and I guess they like the way we do it," she said of the 35 members who come from about a dozen surrounding communities.

Cowell said there was no reason the needlecrafters couldn't have kept on meeting in one another's homes, but there are distinct advantages in belonging to a national guild. Membership in Embroiders Guild of America offers a national magazine to each member, keeps members informed on seminars, workshops and shows going on throughout the country, and also offers correspondence courses.

Members are distinguished from guests by their hand-crafted name tags of any size or shape, framed or fringed, in the needlework of their specialty that might be embroidery, applique, pettipoint, or any of the hundreds of ways with a needle.

Guests are welcome to "just show up at any meeting and introduce themselves," Sellman said. Or she will take calls at 345-0036.

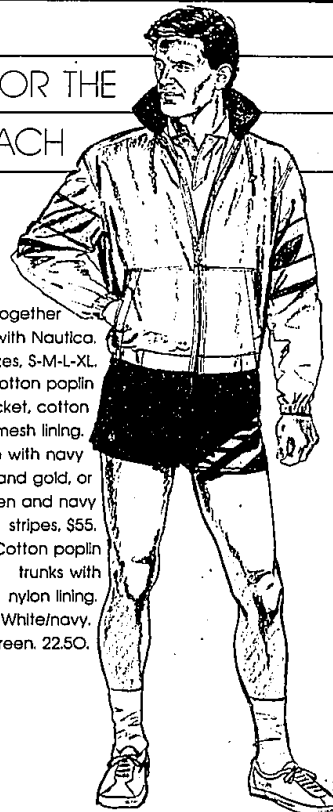
Meetings are scheduled the first Wednesday of every month in Faith Covenant Church, at the corner of Drake and 14 Mile.



Dianne Little, an instructor at Greenfield Village, brought some pieces from her own quilt collection for the display when she was a guest speaker for the Embroiderers' Guild.

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